

# GQ STUDS - Is your story one?

Use this check list to critique your own story before turning it in, or use it to critique stories by others, published or not yet published. Make notes in the space provided about what needs to be improved.

- ✓ **Great Quotes (GQ)** -- The story is filled with powerful quotes that help tell the story and aren't just filler. The quotes add emotion, depth and opinion. The story quotes more than one person. People quoted offer different perspectives.
  
- ✓ **Strong Start (S)** -- The lead (first paragraph, not the headline) grabs the reader's attention. It is specific and fits the story. The lead is 35 words or fewer. Within the first three paragraphs, all five W's and H are summarized.
  
- ✓ **Transitions (T)** -- The story flows because the writer uses transitions between quotes and uses background information, facts, partial quotes and indirect quotes to set up the direct quotes, without repeating what the quote says. The article follows, generally, the transition-quote (L-Q-T-Q) formula.
  
- ✓ **Unique angle (U)** -- The story surprises you or approaches the topic from a different perspective or point of view. If about something routine, it shows the same-old in a new way or provides new information that is not widely known. There is something unique or unusual about this story that makes you want to read it.
  
- ✓ **Depth and Description (D)** -- The story answers all the questions. It tells all sides of the issue, not necessarily just two sides and definitely not only one. It gives the readers something more than what they would know from a hallway conversation or PA announcement. It contains colorful descriptions that help the reader see, hear or feel, even without photos.
  
- ✓ **Style and grammar (S)** -- The story follows the AP style that you have been learning. It contains no obvious errors of spelling, grammar or style.